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CIA RESPONDS TO TURNER ALLEGATIONS ON PREPUBLICATION REVIEW

Admiral Stansfield Turner has leveled a number of serious charges against the Central Intelligence Agency about the way his book was screened for classified material. These charges have no validity. He has chosen to be critical of a mechanism that he himself established.

Admiral Turner's material was subjected to the same carefully formulated classification standards that have been applied to the work of hundreds of other authors. In this instance, the review process proved to be more lengthy and arduous than in almost all other cases in recent years: Admiral Turner submitted his manuscript chapter by chapter, he continually revised portions that had already been approved, and we accommodated him in that process. We regret that he criticizes the Agency for refusing to meet his demands to change our review standards.

The Agency's experience with prepublication review shows that the mechanism is only effective when the same review process and classification standards are applied equally to all. We hope the Admiral will understand our need to maintain the integrity of the review process.